

ABSTRACT

Home-networked client devices are connected to a host system that assigns independent Internet addresses to the client devices using a home gateway device that is connected to the home-networked client devices through a network. The home gateway device, which may be physically located in a personal residence, generally includes a communication device to communicate with the host system over a single communication tunnel established between the home gateway device and the host system. The home gateway device also includes a network address translation module. The client devices are typically connected to the home gateway device through a network and the client devices communicate with the host system through the home gateway device over the single communication tunnel. This enables the host system to establish individual communication sessions with the client devices over the single communication tunnel and to assign independent Internet addresses to the client devices.

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